N E W T O N A B B O T

U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the Year

1 9 6 6

H. M. DAVIES,
M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
ASSISTANT COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER :
DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :
DAWLISH U.D.C.
NEWTON ABBOT R.D.C.
NEWTON ABBOT U.D.C.
TEIGNMOUTH U.D.C. AND
PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.
Ashburton U.D.C.

TELEPHONE No. NEWTON ABBOT 3991

6/8 SHERBORNE ROAD,

NEWTON ABBOT.

NEWTON ABBOT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT - 1966

To: The Chairman
and Members of the Newton Abbot Urban District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present my Report for the year ended 31st December, 1966, together with that of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

The vital statistics regarding the births and deaths, which occurred during the year, once again conform fairly well with the figures which are applicable both to the County of Devon and to the total population of England and Wales. The figures which, of course, have to be considered are the corrected live birth rates and the corrected death rates. The difference between the crude rate and the corrected rate is dependent on a formula produced by the Registrar General. This takes into account the differences in the age groups, which occur from area to area. In this area it is very obvious that we have a higher population of elderly people than one would find in the industrial areas of the country and adjustment is made accordingly.

In the year 1965, six deaths occurred in infants under the age of one week, giving a very high Perinatal Mortality. This year, fortunately, the trend has been reversed and there has only been one death in this age group. Variations, such as this, must inevitably be expected when one is comparing the relatively small population of the Newton Abbot Urban District with the rates which one encounters in the infinitely larger population of England and Wales.

Regarding Infectious Diseases, conditions continue to be highly satisfactory and only sixty-one cases were notified during the year, as opposed to the two hundred and fifty-one which occurred in 1965. This fall is due almost entirely to the fact that 1966 was a year of low incidence of Measles, whereas 1965 was an epidemic year. It is of interest to note that Measles normally appears in epidemic form in alternate years.

Once again I would point out that no cases of Smallpox, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Typhoid, Para-Typhoid or Poliomyelitis occurred in 1966 and that only four new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year.

These figures are, of course, characteristic of what one finds throughout the country, but they are achieved only by paying full attention to the various preventative measures, which have to be taken. These measures require to be continually pointed out if these happy conditions are to continue as they are, or to be improved still further.

With reference to the ages at which death has occurred in the three hundred and twenty-three deaths reported during the year, one hundred and eighty were in respect of persons age seventy-five or over.

I have, from time to time, reported on the difficulties which arise in dealing with old people. These matters have been brought to my attention much more forcibly since my part-time appointment in April, 1966, as Clinical Assistant to the Geriatric Department of the Newton Abbot Hospital. I have recently written a letter to the British Medical Journal, of which the following is an extract:-

> 'There is, I think, an urgent need for the medical and other requirements of the aged to be rationalized. At the present time the services provided by the Local Authorities are usually subdivided into two parts—one ruled by the Medical Officer of Health dealing with the domiciliary services, health visiting, home nursing, chiropody, etc., the other by the Chief Welfare Officer and his separate staffs running the Local Authority Welfare Homes.
>
> From the point of view of the family Doctor, and in an emergency the Medical Officer of Health, difficulties arise in assessing whether an old person requires a bed in an Old People's Home, a Geriatric Hospital, or a Mental Hospital. The beds in each are controlled by different people and more often than not the liaison between these people is less than it might be. Not only are patients sometimes sent to unsuitable accommodation in the first place, but transfers from one type of bed to another are far from the simple administrative manoeuvres that one would expect them to be.

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Somehow, and as a matter of urgency, the facilities available for the old people must be integrated, or at least co-ordinated, if the best uses of the available resources are to be made. The suggestion that a Senior Doctor, from either the Hospital or the Local Authority Service, should be responsible for this co-ordination is long overdue'.

This letter was published on the 5th August, 1967.

I should like to thank, once again, the Chairman, Councillors and all members of the staff for the help and co-operation received.

A. Davis.

Medical Officer of Health

October, 1967.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres).....	4,156
Population mid 1966.....	18,630
Population 1961 Census.....	18,060
Rateable Value as at 1st January, 1966.....	£752,390
Rateable Value as at 31st December, 1966.....	£779,230
Product of 1d rate - 1966/1967.....	£3,087

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	140	145	285
Illegitimate	12	10	22
	152	155	307

Crude Live Birth rate per 1000 total population	16.47
Corrected Live Birth rate per 1000 total population	18.28
Crude Live Birth rate per 1000 total population - Administrative County of Devon	14.56
Corrected Live Birth rate per 1000 total population - Administrative County of Devon	17.62
Live Birth rate per 1000 total population - England and Wales	17.7
Illegitimate Live Births (per cent of total live births)	7.16

Stillbirths

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Stillbirth rate per 1000 total live and stillbirths	3.24
Stillbirth rate per 1000 total live and stillbirths - Administrative County of Devon	12.08
Corresponding rate for England and Wales	15.4

Deaths

The average age at death, from all causes, was found to be 74.74. The average age of all male deaths was 72.45 and for female deaths 76.82 years.

	Male	Female	Total
	153	170	323

Crude Death rate per 1000 total population	17.33
Corrected Death rate per 1000 total population	10.57
Crude Death rate per 1000 total population - Administrative County of Devon	15.10
Corrected Death rate per 1000 total population - Administrative County of Devon	9.06
Death rate per 1000 total population England and Wales	11.7

Infant Mortality
(Deaths of Infants under one year)

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Infant Mortality rate per 1000 related live births	6.51
Infant Mortality rate - Administrative County of Devon	17.73
Corresponding rate for England and Wales	19.0
Legitimate Infant deaths per 1000 legitimate live births	7.01

Neonatal Mortality
(Deaths of Infants under four weeks)

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Neonatal Mortality rate per 1000 related live births	3.25
Neonatal Mortality rate - Administrative County of Devon	11.49
Corresponding rate for England and Wales	12.9

Perinatal Mortality

(Deaths of Infants under one week)

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Perinatal Mortality rate (Stillbirths and deaths of Infants under one week) per 1000 live and stillbirths	6.49
Perinatal Mortality rate - Administrative County of Devon	21.02
Corresponding rate for England and Wales	26.3

Maternal Mortality

No maternal deaths occurred in the Newton Abbot Urban District during 1966. Three maternal deaths occurred within the Administrative County of Devon.

AGE AT DEATH

	Male	Female
Infants under four weeks	1	-
Four weeks and under one year	1	-
1 - 4	-	-
5 - 14	1	-
15 - 24	-	-
25 - 34	1	1
35 - 44	2	2
45 - 54	6	3
55 - 64	25	14
65 - 74	48	38
75 and over	68	112
	153	170

Total: 323

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male	Female
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	-
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	7	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	3
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	10	5
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	2	-
Diabetes	-	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	23	29
Coronary Disease, Angina	35	32
Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	3
Other Heart Disease	29	38
Other Circulatory Disease	5	6
Influenza	2	-
Pneumonia	5	6
Bronchitis	8	3
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	-
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	-	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	-
Congenital Malformations	1	-
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	16	29
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-
All Other Accidents	-	4
Suicide	3	-
	153	170

Total: 323

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Male	Female	Total
Measles	29	22	51
Salmonella Typhimurium	2	-	2
Scarlet Fever	3	-	3
Whooping Cough	2	3	5
	36	25	61

TUBERCULOSIS

Three cases of pulmonary and one case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified in Newton Abbot during 1966.

Details are set out in the following table:-

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Age Periods				
Under five years	1	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	-	-	-
25 - 44	1	-	-	1
45 - 64	1	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-
	3	-	-	1

Total: 4

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

Official action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951, was necessary in one case during 1966.

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NEWTON ABBOT

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR

1966.

STAFF.

Chief Public Health Inspector.
C.E.Pethick, F.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector.
F.J.Webb.

Additional Public Health Inspector.
T.J.Price (up to 31.10.66)
W.R.Knight (from 12.12.66)

Shorthand Typist
Miss.S.Weaver.

Clerk.
Miss.P.Evans.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Mr Chairman and Councillors,

I submit herewith the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1966.

DRAINAGE:

Details of the work carried out under this heading are as follows:-

Number of premises visited	34
Number of tests applied	79
Number of visits made	239

FACTORIES:-

1. Inspections

		No.on register.	Inspections.	No.of written Notices	Occupier prosecuted
(i)	Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	10	7	-	-
(ii)	Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	81	18	-	-
(iii)	Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	13	5	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

No.of cases in which defects were found.		Found	Remedied	Ref to H.M. Insp.	Ref from H.M. Insp.	Prosecution.
Want of cleanliness	(S1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	(S2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature	(S3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation	(S4)	-	-	-	-	-

FACTORIES (Cont'd)

2. Cases in which defects were found.	Found	Remedied	Ref to H.M. Insp.	Ref from H.M. Insp.	Prose-cution
No.of cases in which defects were found:-					
Inneffective Drainage of floors (S6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences(S7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences (not relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-

FOOD INSPECTION

1. Meat Inspection

The number of animals slaughtered at the Public Abattoir is shown on the following page together with the figures for the previous 5 years.

2. Meat Inspection Regulations.

All carcases passing through the Public Abattoir have been inspected, thus maintaining the 100% inspection figure.

FOOD INSPECTION (Cont'd)

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Goats
No. Killed	2833	778	3643	9778	4371	-
No. Inspected	2833	778	3643	9778	4371	-
All diseases other than Tuberculosis (i) Whole carcase condemned	2	8	75	126	30	-
(ii) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	510	231	39	1395	806	-
% of animals inspected affected by disease other than Tuberculosis	18.07	30.95	3.13	15.55	19.12	-
Tuberculosis only (i) Whole carcases condemned	1	-	-	-	-	-
(ii) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	1	-	-	39	-
% of animals inspected affected by Tuberculosis	0.07	0.13	-	-	0.87	-
No.of cases of Cysticercus Bovis	1	1	-	-	-	-

	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Bullocks	4,957	5,104	5,308	4,518	3,778	3,611
Calves	9,257	8,866	6,231	3,114	2,519	3,643
Sheep	18,125	14,770	14,554	12,452	10,761	9,778
Pigs	7,666	7,258	7,102	5,885	5,416	4,371
	40,005	35,998	33,195	25,969	22,474	21,403

FOOD INSPECTION (Cont'd)

3. Unsound Food

During the course of the year, the following foodstuffs have been found to be unfit for human consumption :-

11	Cattle carcases
66	Calves carcases
119	Sheep carcases
27	Pigs carcases
49	Cattle heads
2	Sheep heads
45	Pigs heads
2977	Offals and parts
105	lbs. Meat
51	Chickens
3	Stone of Fish
170	Tins Meat/Meat products
456	Tins Fruit
260	Tins Vegetables
66	Tins Fish
78	Tins Milk products
12	lbs. Butter
150	lbs. Tea
12	lbs. Preserves
5	Cheeses
2	Tins Coffee
3	Bottles Squash
567	Pkts. Frozen Vegetables
353	Pkts. Frozen Fish
37	Pkts. Frozen Cakes
47	Pkts. Frozen Pastry
189	Pkts. Frozen Meat Products
42	Mousse
4	Frozen Ducks
9	Tins Custard Powder

4. Ice-cream

The number of Ice-cream samples that were taken in 1966 are as follows :-

Grade 1	- Satisfactory	-	Samples 4
Grade 2	- Fairly Satisfactory	-	Samples 2
Grade 3	- Unsatisfactory	-	Samples 3
Grade 4	- Very Bad	-	Nil

FOOD/....

5. General

Six complaints were made at the office during the year under consideration, and of these 3 were dealt with informally.

Proceedings were instituted in the following 3 cases:-

i) Sale of pasty containing a piece of wire.
ii) Sale of bacon found to contain maggotts.
iii)Sale of a loaf of bread containing a drawing pin.

In each of these cases a conviction was obtained and fines imposed.

During the year 56 visits were paid to cafes and restaurants and 111 visits to other food handling premises.

7 Informal Notices were served under the Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

HOUSING ACTS

1. The number of dwellings dealt with under the Improvement Grant Scheme are as follows :-

i) No. of properties receiving grant :-

a)	Standard Grant	29
b)	Discretionary Grant	6

ii) No.of inspections carried out 162

2. Improvement Areas.

One of the two areas previously referred to as pilot areas in connection with the Housing Act 1964, and containing 65 houses, was surveyed and as a result it would seem that with existing staff and commitments it would not be possible to deal with more than 2 such areas during a year. On this basis a period of about 5 years would be required to improve properties in the town which lack the necessary amenities.

Subsequently a recommendation to declare the area so defined as an Improvement Area was not proceeded with.

3. Public Health & Housing Acts:-

A summary of the work carried out under this heading is as follows:-

i)	Number of houses inspected under the Public Health Acts	58
ii)	Number of houses inspected under the Housing Acts	73
iii)	Number of Informal Notices served	23
iv)	Number of Statutory Notices served:-	
	a) Under Section 9, Housing Act 1957	2
	b) Under Section 16,Housing Act 1957	1
	c) Under Section 17,Housing Act 1957	13
	d) Under Section 18,Housing Act 1957	-
	e) Under Section 28,Housing Act 1957	1
	f) Under Section 22,Housing Act 1957	1
	g) Under Section 19,Housing Act 1964	2
	h) Under Public Health Act 1936	1
v)	Number of dwellings rendered fit	11
vi)	Number of part of dwellings closed	-
vii)	Number of dwellings closed	1
viii)	Number of dwellings demolished	2
ix)	Number of inspections made	231

4. Housing

i)	Number of Council Houses constructed	150
ii)	Number of private houses constructed	48

5. Housing Act 1957

In addition to making a Closing Order in respect of a dwelling in Courtenay Road and a Demolition Order as regards a house in Bearnes Lane, consideration was given to the future use of 6 houses at the junction of Exeter Road and Highweek Road and 6 houses in East Street, and in each case demolition orders were made.

A report was also submitted regarding houses in Osborne Street and Quay Terrace, which were defined in 4 areas. These areas were subsequently declared as Clearance Areas and a decision taken to apply for Compulsory Purchase Powers.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT,1963.

The number of premises registered during the 12 months ending 31st December, 1966, were 8, details as follows, making a total todate of 335 :-

1.	i)	Offices	2
	ii)	Retail Shops	5
	iii)	Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	-
	iv)	Catering establishments open to the public, Canteens	-
	v)	Fuel Storage depots	1

2. Number of visits 104

REFUSE COLLECTION & DISPOSAL

In the search for land suitable for tipping purposes consideration was given to land on the north east area of the town,namely West Gold Clay land and Bracewell Fields.

The Company owning West Gold clay land were most helpful and were prepared to accept pulverised refuse on favourable terms which would have provided space for a number of years tipping.

Both in this case and also with Bracewell Fields the proposals were vetoed by the Devon Rivers Board engineer.

A Sub-Committee of the General Purposes,Public Health & Allotments Committee later considered a report on Refuse Disposal and recommended support for the purchase of land adjoining Kingskerswell Road, and the making of an application for planning permission for the use of such land for the tipping of pulverised refuse.

At the end of 1965 it was decided to proceed with the installation of a refuse pulverising plant and during the year under review the Ministry of Housing & Local Government undertook an informal enquiry into the proposals and sanction for the scheme was obtained.

RODENT CONTROL - General Treatment

30 private dwellings and 9 other premises were tested for rat infestations, a total of 107 visits being made in this connection.

RODENT CONTROL/...

Sewer Treatment

Two treatments of the sewerage system of the town were carried out.

STAFF

During the year, Mr.T.J.Price - Additional Public Health Inspector, left the Local Government services and Mr.N.R.Knight was appointed as Additional Public Health Inspector, taking up his duties on 12th December, 1966.

I should like to again record my thanks to the Council for their consideration and support during the year, and to colleagues for their co-operation.

Appreciation is also due to all members of the staff for their assistance during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant.

Chief Public Health Inspector.